



THE GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA POSITION PAPER

The Garden Club of America supports independent, academic, peer-reviewed scientific research as the basis for formulating responsible public policy and legislation, as well as appropriate funding to ensure quality results. The Garden Club of America is a nonpartisan, issue-oriented advocate for a beautiful, healthy planet.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

The Garden Club of America recognizes that successful waste management is vital to the health and well-being of our communities. The US is one of the world's largest generators of waste which presents a growing disposal challenge. The GCA advocates for the reduction of waste by using less, reusing, recycling, and composting.

The Garden Club of America supports federal, state, and local legislation, policy, and individual action that address the following:

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

- Encourage the efficient use of materials and natural resources, with an emphasis on using less.
- Encourage innovation in design for the manufacture of products and packaging to maximize reuse and recycling throughout the product's life cycle.
- Recycle materials to the maximum extent possible and economically feasible.
- Reuse food and organic waste through composting.

EDUCATION

- Encourage education at all levels of society in support of responsible waste management practices.
- Support training initiatives on personal and community waste reduction practices, including wise consumer choices, recognition of excess and non-recyclable packaging, and safe disposal options for harmful substances, including batteries, electronics, and pharmaceuticals.
- Support improved product labeling to reduce food waste, including standardized expiration date labeling.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- Reduce toxic chemicals and their environmental impacts.
- Safeguard the oceans against pollution from plastic waste.
- Support efforts to protect America's drinking water through the enforcement of laws to protect aquifers and surface waters.
- Update residential, commercial, leisure, and agricultural regulations to encourage water efficiency.
- Advocate for properly lined, safe landfills.
- Advocate for regulations to control emissions at waste disposal facilities thereby protecting public health.
- Support public and private funding to rehabilitate aging waste disposal infrastructure.
- Support efforts to control urban and agricultural runoff.